DXCC OR WAZ

SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

March 1982

President: Jim Stevenson, KM6B □ Vice President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF □ Secretary, Joe Locascio, K5KT □ Treasurer: Don Moses, W6UY

Directors: Tom Hoyne, N6NI; Bob Cobb, W6CN; Lee Graves, WB6VTE; Jan Perkins, N6AW

Next meeting: Thursday, March 11, 7:30 PM in the DWP cafeteria, 111 Hope Street.

Tom Orr, W6HT, will show us an array of computer programs that will make amateur radio more enjoyable. Included are RTTY, antenna design and, for the contester, a sure-fire anti-dupe program. Sooner or later, you're going to own a computer, so don't miss this meeting.

ARRL petition ready

20-meter expansion imminent

By Stan Brokl, N2YQ/6
ARRL Section Communications Manager

A docket, 82/83, concerning 20-meter phone band expansion, has been released from the FCC.

I talked to Dale Cliff at ARRL headquarters to get clarification on a few points. The docket asks for expansion downward from 14.2 MHz to 14.150 MHz. The new 50-KHz segment would be open for all classes of amateurs from general up, while the segment from 14.2 to 14.275 would remain exclusively for extra and advanced.

In April QST, Page 67, is the ARRL's petition for 20-meter phone band expansion. In the petition, expansion down to 14.150 is requested, but incentive privileges also are requested: the 14.150 to 14.175 segment for extra class only; 14.175 to 14.225 for extra and advanced class; and the remaining 14.225 to 14.350 for general through extra class amateurs.

This proposal satisfies most amateurs outside the U.S.A., since the extra class population is small and would not cause much trouble to non-U.S. amateurs. It also adds an extra 50 KHz to the general class segment.

In looking at what the FCC is proposing and at what the ARRL has petitioned, it appears the FCC proposal will cause non-U.S. amateurs increased interference and additionally decrease the usefulness of incentive licensing. The ARRL petition carefully considered these two points and would satisfy the majority of amateurs.

Please write your comments to the FCC and cite the ARRL petition (a copy of which can be obtained from ARRL headquarters with SASE) as an alternative method of implementing the FCC proposal.

By all means, do write a comment. It makes a difference (the Plain Language Rewrite is a good example). Expansion is needed, so try to be positive in your response. More information will be included in the next QST.

KF1O/CE0X arrested at ARRL

The labyrinthine saga of the KF1O/CE0X operation continues, and there seems to be no end in sight.

Bob Read, KF1O, was arrested February 25 in the ARRL parking lot by Newington police, acting on a warrant from the Trumbull, Connecticut Police Department.

Read, according to Trumbull PD court liaison officer Paul Heiden, has been charged with first degree larceny. The allegations against Read stem from checks not backed by funds, Heiden said. Read's primary residence is in Greece, where he holds the call SV0BV.

Heiden, it turns out, is W1MWT. He heard Read February 25 on a two-meter repeater saying he was headed for ARRL Headquarters with documentation in hand for his recent CE0X operation. Aware of the warrant for Read's arrest, Heiden had two of Newington's Finest

Continued on page 2

The word from the Knights of Malta

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta operation, 1A0KM, made 3,500 QSOs February 13-14, but few were with W6 and W7 stations, unfortunately.

"Conditions were disturbed," said Tony, I0IJ, heard on 20 SSB the following weekend. "There was no long path and we had intentional QRM. Plus, we had European signals that were sometimes 40 over 9. We just couldn't hear W6s and W7s."

Last December the group used a three-element triband yagi. "We didn't have the opportunity this time to set it up," he said. "The problem we actually have, there is difficulty in setting up a permanent station. We can't set up a permanent antenna system.'

Would a permanent station mean more operation from 1A0? "Without it," Tony said, "it's very difficult to make the trip there, and we are trying to do that (operate 1A0KM) occasionally, when we get the necessary authorization from the attorney general."

Tony said he did not know when the next visit would take place. "Not in the near future," he said. "But we will try the next time to put up the larger antenna system—the TH3 we used on previous operations—and we will try to work a lot of W6 long path. We worked many W6s on previous operations, you know."

Counting the February 13-14 weekend, Tony said, more than 15,000 stations have been worked since 1A0KM first opened up in November 1980.

DX news highlights

China was the news of greatest long-range significance when this bulletin went to press. As reported in LIDXB, *Radio*, the official technical journal of the Peoples' Postal Telegraph Publishers of Peking, opened its January issue with: "Good news! Amateur radio has received official approval of the government of the Peoples' Republic of China." Initial authorization will be for club stations only—no private stations are being considered at this time—and frequencies are to be in conformity with ITU standards for amateur service. No longer is it a question of *if*, it's now *when*.

And no, **Martti, OH2BH**, didn't go to the mainland, but there's speculation that he made a valiant try. After attending the JARL convention, he returned to Finland. His **CR9BH** operation was up to his usual high standards, and the hope is that he'll be returning to Asia in the near future.

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Minutes of the last meeting

By Joe Locascio, K5KT
Secretary

Minutes of the meeting at DWP February 11

President Jim Stevenson, KM6B, started the meeting at 2000. He announced the agenda for the evening and several interesting door prizes, then turned the meeting over to the Vice President, Neil Kaltman, K6SMF.

Neil introduced Bill Nelson, WA6FQG, the featured speaker. Bill, who is now retired from the electric company after a long and distinguished career, spoke about the sounds of interference and safety considerations pertaining to antenna installations. He is also the author of the very informative *Interference Handbook*, available at most radio stores.

An important consideration in identifying and locating the many sounds and sources of RFI is the use of an AM receiver, since it all sounds the same on SSB. An inexpensive AC/DC AM/FM radio with coverage from the AM broadcast band to beyond the FM broadcast band would be extremely helpful in isolating undesirable noise sources. Bill discussed many interesting noise sources including such items as a clock power supply, cable TV, fluorescent lights, electric shaver (while charging), heating pad, electric fence, door bell transformer, TV horizontal oscillator and color burst oscillator, neon signs, heli arc welder, electric soldering machine, dimmer switches, brush type motors, electric blankets, fish tank heater, and *25 watt* GE light bulbs (Barkhausen oscillation).

Next, Bill mentioned several important considerations for safe, legal installation and servicing of antennas and towers. He completed his presentation with an enlightening discussion on the importance and design of an equipment (electrical) ground system. His talk ended at 2130.

After a short break, Jim, KM6B, introduced Larry Brockman, N6AR, who announced several CQ contest awards recently earned by SCDXC members. One of the most—if not *the* most—prestigious awards for #1 in the world for the 1981 CQWW (CW) contest went to Dick Norton, N6AA, for his operation from 9Y4VT. Also recognized for sterling efforts were two others, Jim Neiger, N6TJ, as #2 in the world for the 1981 CQWW (CW) contest for his operation from 8P6J, and Phil Goetz, N6ZZ, as #4 in the world for the 1981 CQWW (SSB) contest for his KP2A operation.

Addressed next was the issue of dues. Since there is presently a surplus in the treasury and funds for this year appear to be adequate, a recommendation had been made to reduce the yearly dues from $12 to $9. After several members commented on the matter, a vote was taken. The measure was defeated by a substantial margin, and the dues will remain at $12 a year.

The raffle was held as the final activity of the evening. Thanks to the efforts of Neil, K6SMF, many impressive prizes were available for the raffle. AE6P took home an AEA CK1 keyer from Ham Radio Outlet; WB6DXU, a $100 gift certificate from Henry Radio; N6CQG, a copy of the *Interference Handbook*; 1981 ARRL Handbooks went to W6RCL, K5DY and W6SP; K6DDO won a 2nd Op; and radio beam heading maps were given to KM6B, WA6CTX, N6CYL, K6HMA and K6EVR.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2230.

Visalia—wholly devoted to active DXers and contesters

An attractive pen with built-in LCD timepiece awaits the first 500 who preregister for the 1982 California International DX Convention, said Larry Brockman, N6AR, general chairman.

The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Visalia on Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18. To preregister, send a check for $35.50, payable to the Southern California DX Club, to Don Bostrom, N6IC, 4447 Atoll Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. To receive the pen, be sure Don has your check in hand by April 9.

A preregistration prize—a Kenwood TS-830S—is being awarded. This year's grand prize will be a Henry linear.

Festivities begin Friday night with a cocktail party, Larry said. "The formal program gets under way about noon Saturday. Lloyd and Iris Colvin are scheduled to speak, and Ellen White, W1YL, will represent ARRL at the DX Forum. K5VT, OH2BH, EA8AK, VS6CT and HB9MX are planning to attend. The convention, as it has for the last 32 years, will feature the best of the currently active DXpeditioners in an atmosphere wholly devoted to active DXers and contesters."

The food will be excellent, he said. "Saturday night, there's a prime rib banquet with wine on the table, and Sunday morning, a champagne brunch. The meals will be the best that $35.50 can buy."

The list of equipment to be raffled is extensive and includes at least one TS-830S, several IC2ATs, an operating desk and a pair of 8874s.

A four-color commemorative patch is available. For those who preregister, the price is $3.50, and orders will be accepted at the upcoming club meeting.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Holiday Inn, 9000 Airport Drive, Visalia, CA 93277, or by calling (209) 733-9000. Do *not* use the 800 number for the Holiday Inn, and be sure to mention "DX Convention" when you call. Phone between 8:30 and 4:30 PM weekdays and ask for Irene. Special prices will be in effect: $38/night for single, $45/night for double, and $65-$75 for suites. Rooms will be guaranteed by the hotel up to 6 PM on the day of arrival. To hold a room after 6 PM, a major credit card number or advanced deposit is required. Make your reservations before April 1.

KFIO/CE0X arrested

Continued from page 1

there to meet him. Read never made it to Don Search's office with the documentation. He just barely got out of his car, in fact.

"We heard Read was coming," Search said. When asked if CE0X should be put back on the need lists, Search said, "I really don't know at this point."

Heiden could not talk about specifics of the case, and especially the documentation for the CE0X operation, which may be used as evidence. If so, it won't be available to the DXCC Desk for months, regrettably. The question, at least for now, remains unanswered: Did KF1O *really* operate from CE0X?

Dues are due

The vote last meeting was almost unanimous: in these times of uncertainty, the club must be able to function year-round, so therefore the $12 a year assessment should be retained.

And, as it happens, that time is upon us again. Our treasurer, W6UY, is looking forward to hearing from you soon. Send your $12 check to:

Don Moses, W6UY
5618 Scotwood Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. 90274

If you want to become a member, or if you're a former member who would like to rejoin, contact:

Robert Cobb, W6CN
4849 West 118th Place
Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

And more DX news...

Continued from page 1

ZD9BV, Tristan da Cunha, has been heard. He is Andy Repetho, the assistant postmaster on the island and a government radio operator. Andy's ham license is brand new, and he is not yet accustomed to amateur operations. As a result, he'll be using the DX nets for a while. QSL W4FRU.

The mail seems to be moving in and out of Poland. There are reports of **9U5WR** cards being received from **SP6FER.**

Pradhan, A51PN, is again active on 10 meters.

Cocos-Keeling through March 9 with **K1MM** operating **VK9YM** and **VK3OC** running **VK9YT.** K1MM's address is P.O. Box 73, Framingham, MA 01701.

K1MM plans to be on from Christmas Island as **VK9XI** March 10-17.

AC3PT reportedly died January 28. Sikkim was absorbed by India and deleted in 1975. Many oldtimers will remember AC3PT as a step to the Honor Roll.

W6EE worked 62 countries on 40 meters during the ARRL CW DX contest.

YI1BGD, Majid, has resumed appearances on 20 SSB. Try 15-16z Fridays. **YI1AS** is occasionally heard on 10 SSB 15-17z.

FB8WG heard now and then on 20 SSB 15-17z.

Burundi: 9U5JM QSLs now are being accepted at Newington, and **9U5WR** is active.

A4XJO works 40 cw, 14-16z.

J28DL will QSY to 10 meters on request; QSL **F6EIH.**

3B8DA reported heading for **Rodriguez, 3B9,** with operation probably beginning in June.

FC9UC on 3798 at 06z.

A4XJO 3505 at 1430z.

VP8ANT 3818 at 0330z.

VQ9AB 3511 at 1330z.

3V8AA most days on 28604; QSL via **IS0LYN.**

3X1Z by **W4LZZ;** QSL **W4FRU.**

5V7HL is often on 10 SSB.

9L1SL appears on most bands, usually on cw.

7Q7LW is still on 10 SSB daily, 28510-520, around 18z.

3V8DX on 14213 at 0130z; cards to **G3SVK.**

VK9NM/LH on 21289 at 0530z and 14006 at 0645z; QSL **DJ5CQ.**

5R8AL being worked on 7002 at 1530z; QSL **WA4VDE.**

PY0RR plans to be on from Trindade Island March 27 for a month.

LU2AH says there will be no operation from South Sandwich or South Orkney.

UA0YAE, Zone 23, shows on 40 meters, 14-15z.

OE5JTL/TJ can be found on 10 SSB; QSL **OE5UYL.**

N4XX propagation

Forecasting at this time, Ted Cohen says, "is very difficult. It will be a year or so before the cycle is mature enough to make good 27-day recurrence forecasts. We're having maximum flare activity now."

Here then, the predicted propagation for March and the first three days of April, with a 54-day forecast beginning March 21.

A, H, L, B, D: Above, High, Low, Below, Disturbed

6 L	11 L	16 B	21 H	26 L	31 B
7 L	12 B	17 L	22 H	27 B	1 L
8 L	13 D	18 L/B	23 H	28 D	2 L
9 B	14 L/B	19 H/L	24 A	29 B	3 L
10 L/B	15 H/L	20 L	25 A	30 B	

Activity reports

from K6YRA, Encino

ZL4OY/A	3795	1510	1/23
J3AE	3789	0540	1/23
UW0MF	3646	1450	1/30
W8ILH/6Y5	3795	0419	2/03
CR9BH	3797	1440	2/03
HI8IH	3791	0509	2/05
A4XJO	3797	1453	2/06
FG0GA/FS	3798	0702	2/08
FY0FOL	3780	0758	2/11
VK3VJ	3695	1455	2/12
HC1BI	3796	0506	2/14
OA4AWD	3783	0511	2/14
LU5ZI	3745	0553	2/14
6W8AR	3798	0718	2/14
6W8DY	3799	0746	2/14
J73PP	3793	0749	2/14
CT2ARA	3796	0757	2/14
XF4MDX	3797	0751	2/15
ZS6WD	3778	0404	2/24
HC1EA	3800	0634	2/25
EA3SF	3799	0642	2/25
EA4DJO	3799	0645	2/25
J88AQ	3782	0307	2/27

from WB6VTE, Van Nuys

GU2ASO	28577	1739	1/10
EA6DE	28570	1706	1/16
EA9JV	28516	1713	1/16
CT2CR	28594	1917	1/16
YJ8RG	28544	2249	1/16
EA9IE	28590	1649	1/17
W1FNV/V2A	28519	1856	1/23
LU5ZI	28596	0143	2/03
GJ4ICD	28506	1727	2/07
5V7HL	28599	1618	2/12
3V8AA	28576	1711	2/12
C31UN	28518	1800	2/12
ZD7BW	28539	2010	2/12
VK9NND	28557	0132	2/13
T32AE	28605	0138	2/13
5N9GM	28570	1628	2/13
6J5LM	28495	1735	2/13
VP2EO	28532	2054	2/13
YS1SA	28551	2212	2/13
FK8DH	28586	0132	2/14
CX2BJ	28537	0137	2/14
EA8BJ	28537	1637	2/14
TU2IE	28519	1705	2/14
ZS3NH	28562	1814	2/14
V3FM	28542	1831	2/14
K8MK/V2A	28513	2139	2/15
VK9ZH	28512	0413	2/21
VK9NYG	28512	0414	2/21
5T5AY	28506	1708	2/27
OY9R	28545	1716	2/27
7Q7LW	28510	1827	2/27
5H3BH	28582	1907	2/27
3X1Z	28607	1911	2/27
GI3CVH	28520	1924	2/27
VP2MKD	28588	1936	2/27
ZD8JGN	28614	2004	2/27
YJ8NKO	28575	0138	2/28
WB5SNA/HR1	28693	2016	2/28
OX3KM	28574	2022	2/28

Why not install the PL yourself?

In most cases you're only dealing with three wires

By Paul Moratto, KC5JK

Putting an encoder in a two-meter FM rig doesn't have to be a traumatic experience. Read on, and you may find the incentive to drag out your soldering iron.

More often than not, only three wires are involved, and one of them is ground. There are numerous spots to tie that one, leaving only two to cope with—the plus voltage (again, you have a choice of tiepoints) and the signal output lead. Often, even this one can be connected to any one of several places. The most popular is the wiper of the deviation pot.

Communications Specialists, Inc., one of the firms marketing different kinds of encoders and related products, puts out a great instruction sheet that I recommend for anyone planning to install his own "hummer." It contains a wealth of applications notes for virtually any type of FM transmitter, with tips on dealing with stubborn cases, and is useful regardless of what brand encoder you are installing.

Encoders fall into different categories, of which two are the most common. The CTCSS, or continuous subaudible, is in widest use in the U.S., while tone burst or audible is standard in Europe. Since our DX repeater uses subaudible, disregard any jumpers, switching, or other wiring in your equipment for use in a burst system.

The subaudible system utilizes tone frequencies roughly from 67 to 264 Hz, which are actually audible to most human ears if the level is up enough.

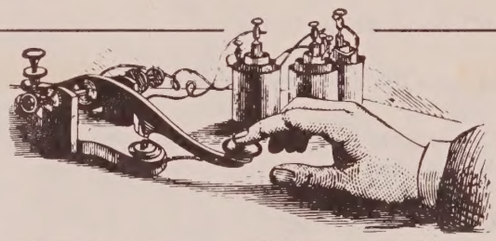
In this system are found two types of hummers. One is continuously tunable in frequency and can be set to any pitch within its frequency range—either standard EIA codes or the non-standards like ours—and the other is programmable, either by DIP switch or jumper wires to select any of the 32 standard code frequencies. It can be equipped for non-standards.

Exotic test equipment usually isn't needed to set your encoder to frequency, many of the tunable types being available preset to order. The programmables are easily set up in the field by switching or jumpering to the desired tone code according to a program chart supplied with the unit. Often, I have found that you can zero beat yours against another unit that is known to be on-channel, while listening on a third receiver to both. Tolerance is half a Hertz either way.

Your tone encoder probably will work satisfactorily on a wide range of operating voltages. You can almost always find a convenient tiepoint that will furnish a positive 8-15 VDC, but avoid voltage sources that run constantly. The unit should only be powered during transmit; otherwise, it can distort the receiver. Consult your schematic for the best source.

You'll probably also need the roadmap to find your dev control, but sometimes a block diagram or pictorial is included. With a little luck, you might even find the dev pot identified in a component layout picture of your radio. Avoid connecting the encoder output lead into the microphone circuit. DTMF pads work fine here, as do tone burst generators since they are audible frequencies that are not sent while you are speaking. But your speech amp stage is designed to cut off frequencies below the normal voice range—where the CTCSS system works—and your voice signals are likely to mask the sub-tone and cause you to drop out of the machine on audio peaks. Remember that the decoder which controls the repeater when it's in PL mode must be able to hear your encoder at all times. The moment it cannot, it will shut down the machine. The level of your hummer is important. Try to find the lowest level possible and still hold the machine.

How it sounds from W4



By Jerry Hagen, N6AV/4

I thought SCDXC members might be interested in a report of DXing from the Southeast. My location is on the North Carolina/South Carolina border, approximately 300 miles inland from the Atlantic, with a latitude about the same as Bakersfield. The closest large metropolitan area is Atlanta, which is about 200 miles south of Charlotte, NC. In general, DXing is excellent from here. European, African and Caribbean/South American signals are always loud. It is also amazingly easy to work JA and VK/ZL, but the signals here are not as strong as they are in Southern California.

So here is how the bands sound, one by one.

80 Meters

Activity is good, with much more CW than from W6. Europeans come through fairly regularly; however, it appears that the VE1, W1, W2, W3 and W8 areas have an edge to Europe over the W4s on this band. The other evening UA3EAS was on with a pileup of Ws, and at one point he worked 13 W3s in a row. But I never heard him work a W4. However, the reverse is true for Caribbean-South America and VK/ZL; I can usually beat out W1, 2 or 3 to these areas. Last week, VK6HD, ZL2TZ/C and YJ8VU were worked on one call through northern callers. JAs are workable on 3.5 MHz on good mornings around 12z. I've not been very active on 80, but the only rare DX I've heard has been UK7EAJ at 02z, and 3B8CF and 4Z4DX at 03z. Zone 23 will be a real "bear" on 80 meters! I am not sure whether there's a good long path on this band. Time will tell.

40 Meters

The 40-meter CW band really is fun in the early evening. Europe, the Middle East and the Caribbean-South America are loud. I never knew there were so many PYs and COs active on CW. JAs and VKs are not hard to work at sunrise (11-12z) and JA operators are first rate. Zone 21 (HZ, JY, 4X4, etc) is easy to work short path in early evening. The toughest areas are Zones 24, 26 and 28. Even VS6DO is weak. I have heard long path to Asia (UK9) at sundown, but no morning LP has been observed. DX heard on 40 includes TL8CN, XT2AW, 5V7HL, 4X4AB, OD5NG, VS6DO, HZ1AB, JY5ZH, JA2KLT/3B9, DF6FM/ST3, EA9EO, UF6, UD6, UL7 and UK1PGO (Fjl).

20 Meters

I really miss the morning LP, even though 20 is good here. The LP is more to Southeast Asia (YB, VU, VQ9) and does not offer the variety of DX heard from W6. The best time on 20 here is late afternoon and

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DX Information Roundtable

Convenes every Thursday (except club meeting nights) at 7:30 PM PST on the SCDXC repeater, AD6P (144.88 in, 145.48 out) and features reports, bulletins and the latest in DX news.

DXer of the Year Award

Nominate your choice for DXer of the Year at the next club meeting. Simply tell a board member.

The award is an engraved plaque and will be presented at Visalia.

In making their decision, board members will consider a number of factors, including: operating ethics and courtesy, station activity, signal quality, observance of FCC regs, contributions to SCDXC (participation in activities and attendance at meetings, bulletin contributions, technical contributions), contributions to amateur radio (helping new amateurs, or foreign amateurs in any way through expedition traffic, loan or gift of parts or equipment, handling or supplying QSL cards, or assistance with technical problems), attitude toward fellow amateurs, attitude toward the public, perseverance in attaining DX goals and operating ability.

New listing requested

Several have suggested a *QSLs received* listing for the bulletin. Such information should be of help for everyone, so call W6YQ on the repeater and share the news of your good fortune.

DXCC WAZ
SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

Published monthly by the Southern California DX Club.

Editor
Mike Hudgens, W6YQ

Associate editors
Jan Perkins, N6AW
Loren Pleet, AE6P
Dick Emrich, KA6FZN

Send DX activity reports to Loren Pleet, AE6P, P.O. Box 63, Calabasas, CA 91302; send any other material for this bulletin to Mike Hudgens, W6YQ, 10103 Lynrose, Temple City, CA 91780.

Contest calendar

March 20-21	**Bermuda Contest**
March 27-28	**CQ WW WPX SSB**
April 3-4	**Polish CW**
April 7-8	**DX YL to N.A. YL CW**
April 14-15	**DX YL to N.A. YL Phone**
April 17-18	**Polish Phone**
April 24-25	**King of Spain Contest**
May 29-30	**CQ WW WPX CW**

More FCC hearings

In a Federal Communications Commission hearing held February 24-25, Henry Armstrong, WA6CGI, denied allegations that he engaged in one-way broadcasting and malicious interference to the SCDXC repeater between September 1978 and December 1980. Armstrong claimed he was operating simplex on the frequency, 144.880 MHz (input of the SCDXC repeater), for the purpose of conducting experiments that included taking near-field measurements of his antenna and logging the temperature rise of his transmitter. Testifying against Armstrong were W6ET, N6ZV and four FCC officers.

Two other hearings involving jamming also were held in Los Angeles.

On February 22, the Commission heard charges against Robert "Frobert" Frizzell, W6UCB, alleging malicious interference to the 40-meter Westcars net. Dave Flanagan, W6FCW, testified on Frizzell's behalf.

On February 18, charges of malicious interference to the 20-meter Brown Sugar net were heard against Ken Gilbert, KB6TG. Gilbert's character witnesses included Dick Boston, W6AU, and Bob West, W6MFJ.

FCC findings on these cases are expected in May or June.

When malicious interference occurs on the SCDXC repeater, times and dates should be logged, along with a description of the nature of the interference. A tape recording, although it cannot be used as evidence, is an excellent means of recalling just what did happen on a certain date perhaps as much as two years earlier. But remember, accurate times and dates are essential.

Goldstone trip rescheduled

The SCDXC field trip to the Goldstone Tracking Station has been rescheduled to Sunday, March 14. A meeting place will be announced at the next club meeting.

What happened to those new WARC bands, anyway?

The WARC bands beckon, but working a hundred new ones on 10, 18 and 24 MHz seems as far away as ever. The allocations agreed to in Geneva more than two years ago still must be ratified.

Your letter *will* make a difference. Write Senators Cranston and Hayakawa urging ratification of Senate Treaty 97-21, Radio Regulations and Final Protocols, Geneva 1979.

The Honorable Alan Cranston
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 229
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable S.I. Hayakawa
6217 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

New members

Melvin H. Neft, N6CQG (associate), 12826 Friar, North Hollywood 91606

Charles G. Blanchard, KD6DJ (associate), 3265 Meadowlark Lane, Carlsbad 92008

Nicholas M. Winter, WB6DXU (full), 1426 N. Avon, Burbank 91505

Terry P. Mathers, WB6IHZ (full), 8132 Imperial Ave., Garden Grove 92644

Albert Acmeida, N6JZ (full), 9717 Willis Ave., Sepulveda 91343

Ronald D. Jones, KB6UF (full), 12136 Lester Ct., Chino 91710

Richard Sparks, N6WJ (full), 674 Alta Vista Drive, Sierra Madre 91024

Jean B. Clark, WA6GUA(associate), the XYL of W6DQH

Sarm S. Khalsa, N6DFC (associate, formerly subscription only)

Tom Bunch, N6EGG (associate), 20301 Lanack, Canoga Park 91306

Mike Hiehle, W6RZ (full), 10719 Esterina Way, Culver City 90230

Repeater fund low

The repeater fund was down to $18.38 on March 1. Whatever you can spare will be well spent.

Classified

Henry 2-K, an original with 3-400s; have a spare 3-400. Pickup. Dave, W6AQ.

Mosley TA33 tribander with 100 feet of RG213. $100, pickup only. Dick, KA6FZN (714) 597-6516.

Heathkit SB220 $475; Henry 2K3 $650; K6SMF at (213) 995-6242 after 5 PM.

Hy-Gain TH6DXX $200; AE6P at (213) 704-5687

How it sounds from W4

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early evening (23-01z) when the Mideast, Europe, Africa and Caribbean-South America are loud. VKs are extremely loud at 12z, and despite the 8,000-mile path, many are 30-40 dB over S9. The difficult area to work on all bands here is VS6/9M2/YB, although the 20-meter LP gets into that area quite frequently. The Indian Ocean is *easy*.

15-10 Meters

Surprisingly, I don't find much difference between here and W6 on these bands. With the current high sunspot activity, European signals were just as loud in California as they are here. Also, the timing of our morning is significant: 12z is local noon in Europe when absorption is the highest. Thus, 10 meters gets a slow start here and is best to Europe at 15z, by which time W6s also have propagation. There are some notable differences, however. Zones 17, 20 and 21 are quite frequently worked and, of course, the VS5-9M2-9V1 area is difficult to work. Africa seems to be difficult, but this is probably due to low activity in Africa. I hear very few Africans, and when they do show, the pileups are ridiculous! Again, the Caribbean and South American stations are easy to work—even with my vertical in a contest pileup. I am not aware of any nighttime LP openings in 28 MHz, but I have been told that a late morning 28 MHz LP to JA/Asia has occurred about 17z, which is midnight in Japan.

N6 in 4-land

Most operation has been on CW due to lack of a beam to punch through SSB pileups. Either the Butternut vertical is a good antenna, or North Carolina is a good DX location. Some sizable pileups have been cracked with relative ease. However, many operators are not taking N6AR's advice about listening. Most of my QSOs in pileups have been while numerous other stations were still calling.

Signing portable is a *real* pain. At first I tried not signing /4, as permitted by the FCC, but an HB9 and several Europeans chewed me out because they thought they had worked California. The HB9 said I had "tricked" him into a contact. Others said they thought North Carolina was in the fourth call area and wanted to know if the U.S. zones had been changed. So I had to begin signing /4 to avoid problems. Now I get called N4AV/4 or N6AW/4, and the DX station wants to know what I am doing in the Southeast. Good thing I have a programmable keyer, or I would have gone crazy in the CQ WW Test. The only advantage is that in a DXpedition pileup the N6 call seems to get through the W1, 2, 3 and 4 boys on 40 and 80 meters. I don't think Lloyd and Iris have figured out that I am not in California. ZD8TC was real tickled to work a 6 on 80 meters.

Wait until he gets my QSL....